

Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Shared Waters

Puget Sound Management Plan Goal

- To promote and coordinate efforts in Washington and British Columbia in order to ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the shared resources of the inland marine waters.

Strategy for Achieving Goal

- The Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force will coordinate and recommend policies and actions to protect the shared marine waters, to encourage cross-border partnerships and to measure progress through performance measures and adjust the program as needed.

Background and Trends

The governor of Washington and the premier of British Columbia created the Environmental Cooperation Council in 1992 to address a wide range of shared environmental issues between the state and province. In 1993, the council formed the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force to address protection of the shared inland marine waters.

Representing Washington and the United States on the task force are the state departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources, the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Northwest Straits Commission.

The task force works on priority issues in the shared waters, including the loss of nearshore habitat, establishment of marine protected areas, protection of marine plants and animals, and control of the introduction of aquatic nuisance species.

The task force is also working on toxics, nonpoint source pollution and other issues. Much of the work is accomplished through topical work groups.

Other shared waters activities include cooperative agreements between San Juan County and the Gulf Islands Trust, between the Action Team and the Fraser Basin Council, and between Environment Canada and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Highlights of 2001-2003 Actions

- State and federal agencies will continue participating on the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force and work groups.

2001-2003 Budget for State Actions

There is no separate state agency budget for work on this program. Actions to implement work group recommendations are included under other programs in this work plan.

		See page 9 for key.					
JOINT STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
<p>The National Marine Fisheries Service; the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Action Team support staff; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the state departments of Ecology, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Fish and Wildlife participate in the Work Group on Minimizing Nearshore Habitat Loss to oversee and coordinate implementation of work group recommendations.</p>							
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE							
	Recommendations will be developed and implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DFW-03	PS/GB-1	135
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY							
	Recommendations will be developed and implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-10	PS/GB-1	135
PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM							
	Support for and participation in the development of closure-response plans will occur whenever a shellfish growing area is downgraded in classification.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	PS/GB-1	135

JOINT STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	See page 9 for key.					
		Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID

The Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Coast Guard; National Marine Fisheries Service; Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; and state departments of Ecology, Health, Natural Resources, and Fish and Wildlife will continue to participate on the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force and/or its work groups to improve coordination with British Columbia and enhance protection of the shared marine waters.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

	Recommendations will be developed and implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DFW-03	PS/GB-1	136
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

	Recommendations will be developed and implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DNR-06	PS/GB-1	136
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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

	Recommendations will be developed and implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-10	PS/GB-1	136
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

	Recommendations will be developed and implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOH-0	PS/GB-1	136
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PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM

	Recommendations will be developed and implemented.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	PS/GB-1	136
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		See page 9 for key.					
JOINT STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri- ori- ty	Non- point	Sal- mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
<p>Serve on and support the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force and work groups. Oversee implementation of recommendations made by the task force and work groups. Facilitate improved coordination between British Columbia and Washington on marine ecosystem issues.</p>							
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH							
	The public will receive information and education regarding shellfish issues. Methods will include brochures, presentations, data sharing and attendance at community events.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOH-02	PS/GB-1	137
PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM							
	Protection of Puget Sound and Georgia Basin will be coordinated. Recommendations of the task force will be implemented. Information will be shared on problems, programs, management practices and standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	PS/GB-1	137

		See page 9 for key.					
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Coordinate water quality work with British Columbia. Participate on the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force. Participate on Task Force workgroups, such as the Toxics Workgroup, and develop technical analyses and implementation strategies, as appropriate. Encourage cross-border communication, coordination and work planning. Participate in planning the Puget Sound Research Conference.	Environmental programs will be coordinated and implemented more effectively for the shared marine resources. Emerging resource issues will be jointly identified and investigated. Communication on issues of significance to both Washington and British Columbia will be enhanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-10	PS/GB-1	140
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